

Remarks

Entry of the present amendment in the above-listed application is respectfully requested. It is earnestly believed that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and, thus, entry of the amendment is appropriate.

By the present amendment, claims 12, 18, and 25 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Claims 1-11, 14-17, 21-24, and 26-33 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 12, 13, 18-20, and 25 are pending in the present application. It is believed and intended that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11, 14-17, 21-24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,928,263, issued 27 July 1999 to Thomas J. Hoogeboom. Claims 1-11, 14-17, 21-24, and 26 have been canceled, thus mooted this rejection.

II. Allowable subject matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 12-13, 18-20, and 25 contain allowable subject matter. The Applicant has rewritten these claims into independent form and submits that claims 12-13, 18-20, and 25 are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

The present amendment was not earlier presented because it was believed that the arguments submitted with the response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2008 overcame the rejections of the claims. The present amendment does not raise any new issues and does not require any further searching on the part of the Examiner. The present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and is believed to be clearly appropriate.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 20-0090. Please also credit any overpayments to this Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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